Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010700140001-3

The President's Daily Brief

16 May 1972

45

Top Secret

25X1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010700140001-3

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010700140001-3

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

16 May 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[redacted] the military situation in South Vietnam continues to be relatively stable [redacted] 25X1 25X1

[redacted] *(Page 1)*

[redacted] 25X1

[redacted] *(Page 2)* 25X1

The West German Christian Democrats' executive committee has cleared the way for Bundestag ratification of the Eastern treaties tomorrow. *(Page 3)*

At Annex, we discuss the Chilean military's views on ousting President Allende.

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010700140001-3

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010700140001-3

25X1

25X1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010700140001-3

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010700140001-3

VIETNAM

25X1

25X1

25X1

Soviet military leaders are still carrying out their travel plans. Of the nine top-ranking military leaders in the USSR, five are currently outside the country. Latest to leave is Marshal Yakubovsky, the Warsaw Pact commander, who arrived in Budapest yesterday on a visit scheduled to last "a few days."

Politically, Moscow is attempting to convey the impression that Soviet aid for the Vietnamese Communists will continue. The Soviet press has announced that the Viet Cong's "ambassador" in the USSR had a "warm and friendly" talk yesterday with Deputy Premier Novikov, the Soviet official responsible for overseeing the USSR's foreign aid program.

The military situation in South Vietnam continues to be relatively stable. South Vietnamese Marines reoccupied Fire Support Base Bastogne west of Hue yesterday without opposition. There were light enemy probes around Kontum City and moderate pressure on An Loc, but no major new enemy initiatives. Throughout the country, the Communists appear to be primarily engaged in attempting to resupply and reposition their forces for future offensive operations.

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010700140001-3

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010700140001-3

25X1

25X1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010700140001-3

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010700140001-3

CHINA

Equipment observed since early this year in satellite photography of the Wu-chai missile launch complex appears to be part of a launch stand similar to the one at Shuang-cheng-tzu. That launch stand, previously associated only with a large, gantry-served launch facility, was used last September for the first developmental launch of an ICBM-size booster.

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010700140001-3

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010700140001-3

NOTES

West Germany: The Christian Democrats' executive committee voted 27 to 1 yesterday to support the all-Bundestag resolution setting forth the unilateral West German interpretation of the Eastern treaties. The party's parliamentary deputies are meeting today and are expected to follow suit. This clears the way for Bundestag ratification of the Eastern treaties by a substantial majority tomorrow. It also presages passage of the treaties in the Bundesrat on Friday. This would leave only the formality of President Heinemann's signature to complete the ratification process.

USSR-Syria: Soviet Defense Minister Grechko's visit to Syria last week resulted in agreement on unspecified measures "in the field of military cooperation," according to TASS. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

[redacted] Grechko has been in Egypt since Sunday and is scheduled to return to Moscow tomorrow. 25X1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010700140001-3

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010700140001-3

ANNEX

CHILE: WILL THE MILITARY BRAKE ALLENDE?

The continuing contest between Allende and his opposition has focused attention on the role of the Chilean military. The weight of our information is that most military officers remain reluctant to get involved in an effort to oust the Allende government. Although many officers are dissatisfied and a few of them hope something will happen to justify a coup attempt, the predominant attitude is that stiffening political opposition may make a military move unnecessary.

The Chilean armed forces traditionally have kept aloof from politics. [redacted] 25X1 25X1

[redacted] The prevailing view is that a constitutional president is sacrosanct, whatever his drawbacks, and that Allende is not directly accountable for many of the excesses of his political supporters. 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

25X1

[redacted] 25X1

25X1

[redacted] 25X1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010700140001-3

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010700140001-3

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

Serious civil disorders could well prompt military intervention, particularly if the government were obliged to call on the armed forces to help restore order. Rightist groups are arming themselves and talking about a showdown with their leftist counterparts. Some clashes have already taken place in the countryside, where leftist-inspired farm seizures have caused unrest for many months. Some rightists are doubtless seeking to stimulate sufficient violence to provoke military action against

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010700140001-3

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010700140001-3

the government. The problem, of course, is that no one can foresee the outcome, and rightist-inspired violence could backfire, providing the pro-government extremists with an excuse for even greater armed militance.

If the military should ultimately feel compelled to intervene to restore order, it would be in keeping with Chilean military tradition for the armed forces to stop short of an out-and-out overthrow of the government. Military leaders might exert pressure on Allende to moderate government policies and to acquiesce in the disarming of his militant supporters. In these circumstances, Allende would probably prefer to make such concessions than to lose everything, and the military would not have to take responsibility for violating the constitution or for running the government.

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010700140001-3

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010700140001-3

Top Secret

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/06/14 : CIA-RDP79T00936A010700140001-3